

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (the "Decision on Appeal"). Claims 1, 7-10 and 13-23 are pending in the application. Claims 2-6, 11 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7-10, 13 and 14 have been amended. Claims 15-23 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 and 7 are Allowable

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 2-5, which the Decision on Appeal indicated were patentable over the cited art. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

The Office has previously acknowledged in the Final Office Action that the subject matter of claim 7 is allowable. Therefore, Applicants request that claim 7 also be allowed.

Claims 8-10, 13 and 14 are Allowable

Claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 11, which the Decision on Appeal indicated was patentable over the cited art. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 8 is in condition for allowance. Claims 9, 10, 13 and 14 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 8.

Claims 15-23 are Allowable

New claim 15 is an apparatus embodiment of claim 1, including the subject matter of claims 2-5, which the Decision on Appeal indicated were patentable over the cited art. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 15 is in condition for allowance. New claims 16-23 are allowable by virtue of their dependence from a respective independent claim, which Applicants have shown to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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